

OPINION 2291 (Case 3524)***Thecla dumetorum* Boisduval, 1852 (currently *Callophrys dumetorum*), proposed neotype; and *Thecla sheridonii* Carpenter, 1877 (currently *C. sheridanii*) (Lepidoptera, LYCAENIDAE): current usage and names conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the specific name *Callophrys dumetorum* by designation of a neotype and the widely used name *C. sheridanii* has been given precedence over *C. viridis* whenever the two are considered synonyms. This is intended to eliminate nomenclatural confusion within the butterfly genus *Callophrys* Billber, 1820 resulting from differing identifications of the lectotype of *Callophrys dumetorum* which have changed the usages of *C. dumetorum*, *C. viridis* Edwards, 1862 and *C. perplexa* Barnes & Benjamin, 1923.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Lepidoptera; LYCAENIDAE; *Thecla*; *Callophrys*; *Callophrys dumetorum*; *Callophrys perplexa*; *Thecla sheridonii*; *Callophrys sheridanii*; *Callophrys viridis*; green hairstreaks; California.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that:
 - (a) all previous type fixations for *dumetorum* Boisduval, 1852, as published in the binomen *Thecla dumetorum*, are hereby set aside and a male from Brannan Island, Sacramento Co. California, that bears three labels: 'Brannan Is.[Island] State Park, Sacramento Co. Calif., 2-iv[April]-[19]70' (hand-printed) with a rubber-stamped black-ink printed 'SCOTT' on reverse; 'collected by James A. Scott' (printed); 'NEOTYPE *Thecla dumetorum*, designated by James Scott et al. March 2010' (hand-printed in red ink), is designated as the neotype to be deposited in the Natural History Museum, London;
 - (b) the name *sheridanii* Carpenter, 1877, as published in the binomen *Thecla sheridonii*, is to be given precedence over the name *viridis* Edwards, 1862, as published in the binomen *Thecla viridis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *dumetorum* Boisduval, 1852, as published in the binomen *Thecla dumetorum* and as defined by the neotype male from Brannan Island, Sacramento Co. California to be deposited in the Natural History Museum, London, as ruled in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *sheridanii* Carpenter, 1877, as published in the binomen *Thecla sheridonii*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *viridis* Edwards, 1862, as published in the binomen *Thecla viridis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The entry for *viridis* Edwards, 1862, as published in the binomen *Thecla viridis*, in the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology is hereby emended to record

that it is not to be given priority over the name *sheridanii* Carpenter, 1877, as published in the binomen *Thecla sheridonii*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

History of Case 3524

An application to conserve the usage of the specific name *Callophrys dumetorum* by designation of a neotype and to conserve the widely used name *C. sheridanii* by giving it precedence over *C. viridis* whenever the two are considered to be synonyms was received from James A. Scott (*Lakewood, CO, U.S.A.*), Crispin S. Guppy (*Quesnel, BC, Canada*), Jonathan P. Pelham (*Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.*), John V. Calhoun (*Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, U.S.A.*), Kenneth E. Davenport (*Bakersfield, CA, U.S.A.*), Michael S. Fisher (*Centennial, CO, U.S.A.*), Michael E. Toliver (*Eureka College, Eureka, IL, U.S.A.*) on 12 May 2010. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 67: 225–237 (September 2010). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments were received on this case.

The authority for the binomen *Thecla sheridonii* was referred to as Edwards, 1877, Edwards in Carpenter, 1877 in the original application. However, the published paper does not indicate Edwards as the author of the description, only as the determiner of the identifications on the list of known species, thus the reference is corrected in this Opinion to *sheridanii* Carpenter, 1877, as published in the binomen *Thecla sheridonii* (with the spelling corrected as explained in the Case).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2011 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 67: 234. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2011 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 19: Ballerio, Brothers, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Pape, Papp, Patterson, Rosenberg, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3. Alonso-Zarazaga, Bogutskaya and Štys.

van Tol split his vote, voting FOR: (1)(a), (2)(a) and AGAINST (1)(b), (2)(b) and (3).

Bouchet abstained. Fautin, Lim, Ng and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Harvey expressed disappointment that the authors had decided to lodge the neotype of *Thecla dumetorum* in the Natural History Museum, London. Whilst the repository of name-bearing types is not governed by the Code, he was surprised that the authors had not chosen to lodge the neotype in a North American institution, providing easier access for local workers. Voting FOR, Pape said he was puzzled by the absence of an opportunity to provide a split vote as there were two issues in that Case, one being whether or not to designate a neotype for *T. dumetorum*, the other being whether or not to give reversed precedence to the names *T. sheridanii* and *T. viridis*. Technically, one might favour one but not the other. As Pape was FOR both of these proposals, his final vote was FOR, but he felt it would

have been a better formulation to separate the issues. Also voting FOR, Yanega said that while the taxonomic history in this case was extremely complicated, it did appear to come down to whether or not the lectotype of *dumetorum* was unambiguously assignable to the taxon as it was, or had been, understood. The authors made a compelling case that it was not, and while no solution would satisfy all concerned parties, the designation of a neotype offered a more stable solution than the status quo.

Voting AGAINST, Alonso-Zarazaga said it seemed to him that the species and subspecies dealt with are known only to a limited group of specialists and are of no special interest for the laypersons, so in his opinion, stability was better achieved by the use of priority in every point discussed in the application. Also voting AGAINST Štys said he believed that Opinions of the Commission should not be issued in cases where the taxonomy of the species-group concerned was controversial and unsettled. He felt that if the authors had explained unambiguously which taxa they recognized, it would allow the Commission to consider the mandatory type identities and apply the provisions of the Code to the names involved.

Bouchet ABSTAINED, saying he sympathized with the intent of the application, but he regretted that the occasion was not taken to select specimens with associated molecular data as neotypes. He felt it was a lost opportunity to conduct nomenclature in a 21st century taxonomic context.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

dumetorum, *Thecla*, Boisduval, 1852, *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, (2)10(2): 291.

sheridanii, *Thecla*, Carpenter, 1877, *Field and Forest*, 3(3): 48.

viridis, *Thecla*, Edwards, 1862, *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, 14(5): 221, 223.